

REMARKS

Claims 1, 16, and 32-35 have been canceled herein. Claims 3, 4, 6, 8, 11, 12, 18-22, and 24, amended claims 2, 5, 7, 9, 10, 13-15, 17, 23, and 25-31, and new claims 36 and 37 are in this application.

Claims 1-35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,353,870 B1 (Mills) and U.S. Patent No. 4,081,850 (Walden).

As previously indicated, independent claims 1, 16, and 32-35 have been canceled herein, and new independent claims 36 and 37 (from which the remaining other claims depend) have been added herein. New independent claim 36 recites in part the following:

"said manipulating unit is arranged on a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said housing case at one end thereof." (Emphasis added.)

It is respectfully submitted that the combination of Mills and Walden applied by the Examiner does not appear to disclose the above-identified feature of claim 36. That is, in explaining the above 103 rejection with regard to claim 1, the Examiner appears to assert that lines 38-58 of column 5 of Mills discloses the present manipulating unit. The Examiner also appears to rely on lines 65-67 of column 8, lines 1-17 of column 9 and lines 41-67 of column 10 of Mills for disclosing the arrangement of the present manipulating unit. Although lines 38-58 of column 5 of Mills appear to describe an expansion card, such portion of Mills does not appear to disclose that such expansion card is arranged in the same manner as the present manipulating unit (i.e., "on a plane perpendicular to a longitudinal direction of said housing case at one end

thereof"). Additionally, the other portions of Mills relied on by the Examiner for disclosing the arrangement of the present manipulating unit also do not appear to disclose the above-identified specific arrangement of the present manipulating unit.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 36 is distinguishable from the combination of Mills and Walden applied by the Examiner. For similar or somewhat similar reasons, it is respectfully submitted that new independent claim 37 is also distinguishable from the combination of Mills and Walden applied by the Examiner.

Claims 2-15 and 17-31 are dependent from one of new independent claims 36 or 37. As such, it is respectfully submitted that claims 2-15 and 17-31 are distinguishable from the combination of Mills and Walden applied by the Examiner for at least the reasons previously described.

As it is believed that all of the rejections set forth in the Official Action have been overcome, favorable reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited. If, however, for any reason the Examiner does not believe that such action can be taken at this time, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone applicants' attorney at (908) 654-5000 in order to overcome any additional rejections and/or objections which the Examiner might have.

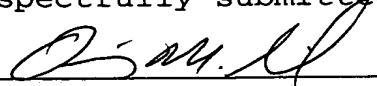
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If there are any charges in connection with this requested amendment, the Examiner is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 12-1095 therefor.

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Respectfully submitted,

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